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(71) Applicant (for AU BB CA GB IE KE LK MN MW NZ SD SG SZ TT UG only): UNILEVER PLC (GB/GB); Unilever House, Blackfriars, London EC4P 4BQ (GB).			
(71) Applicant (for all designated States except AU BB CA GB IE KE LK MN MW NZ SD SG SZ TT UG): UNILEVER N.V. [NL/NL]; Weena 455, NL-3013 AL Rotterdam (NL).			
(72) Inventors: BAILEY, Peter, Lawrence; 16A Rocky Lane South, Heswall, Wirral, Merseyside L60 0DE (GB). GOUGH, Anthony, David; 19 Lomond Close, Oakley, Basingstoke, Hampshire RG23 7NA (GB). KHOSHDEL, Ezat; The Nook, Church Lane, Neston, South Wirral, Cheshire L64 9US (GB). POLYWKA, Robert; 7 Hilltop Road, Gulliden Sutton, Chester CH3 7HU (GB).			
(74) Agent: MULDER, Cornelis, Willem, Reiner, Unilever plc, Patent Division, Colworth House, Sharnbrook, Bedford MK44 1LQ (GB).			
(54) Title: HAIR STYLING COMPOSITION AND METHOD			
(57) Abstract			
<p>A hair styling and conditioning process comprising the steps of: contacting the hair with a compound having an electrophilic group and at least one hydrophobic group whereby the electrophilic group reacts with nucleophilic sites on and in the hair to give the hair a plurality of hydrophobic groups characterised in that the hydrophobic group is selected from: C₁₀₋₃₀alkyl and C₁₀₋₃₀alkenyl. Preferably the electrophilic group is azlactone. Also a reversible hair styling process in which the hydrophobic group is selected from: C₁₋₃₀alkyl, C₂₋₃₀alkenyl, phenyl, diphenyl, other aromatics (e.g. naphthyl), and fluoroalkanes, and the electrophilic group is selected from: azlactone, sulphide from disulphide, sulphide from thiosulphonate, vinyl sulphone, vinyl sulphoximines, benzoxazinones and isocyanates. Also novel azlactones, including pentadecyl and hexyl azlactone.</p>			

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HAIR STYLING COMPOSITION AND METHOD

5 This invention relates to compositions and methods for the styling of hair by chemical interaction of the compositions with at least one species of nucleophilic group in the hair.

10 Permanent waving of hair is well known and usually comprises reduction of disulphide groups with thioglycollate followed by realignment of sulphydryl groups then oxidation with peroxide to complete the process. A problem with such permanent styling is that it cannot be varied according to day to day wishes and it is a harsh process which damages the hair. Temporary styling takes the form of various sprays, 15 mousses and gels which are applied to the hair after washing. These products are designed to be washed out and are not very durable in humid atmospheres. Furthermore, the products have unwelcome sensory negatives due to deposition of relatively large quantities of polymers and other synthetic materials on 20 the hair. It is an object of the present invention to provide a permanent treatment of the hair which gives a style which can be repeatedly changed or even removed according to the wishes of the user. Thus the hair can be straight during the day and curly in the evening or for the weekend.

25 EP-A-0392735 (Minnesota Mining and Manufacturing Company), discloses azlactone-functional polymeric solid supports which are useful as complexing agents, catalysts, reagents, adsorbents, chromatographic supports and as biologically 30 active supports for reaction with protein.

35 Reversible styling of hair is disclosed by K.E. Hall and L.J. Wolfram, J Cosmet Chem, 1977, 28, 231-241. They reduce the disulphide bonds within the hair fibre and reacted the newly formed sulphydryl groups with an alkyl halide or a maleimide.

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This two step treatment has the effect of introducing hydrophobic groups within the fibre giving rise to an increase in the number of hydrophobic bonds present thus leading to retention of set. This technology suffers from safety considerations regarding the alkylation step and does not give sufficient style retention for modern requirements.

Copending International application number: EP/94/01476 describes a method of treating hair comprising taking an azlactone functionalised cosmetic agent and reacting it with a nucleophilic site on the hair to fix the cosmetic agent to the hair. In this application, polymer bearing azlactones are shown to covalently bind to hair. The reaction mechanism is thought to involve nucleophilic attack on the azlactone ring by nucleophilic species within the hair fibre. The cosmetic agents used are polymers which are conditioning agents or styling/bodying/setting agents. Materials suggested are silicone polymers, hydrocarbon polymers, perfluoro-aliphatic or -aromatic compounds, chitosan and chitosan-derivatives, cationic polymers, cationic derivatives of guar gum and cellulose ether derivatives, film-forming polymers, reactive derivatives of sunscreen materials, reactive dyes and colouring agents.

According to the present invention there is provided a hair styling and conditioning process comprising the steps of: contacting the hair with a compound having an electrophilic group and at least one hydrophobic group whereby the electrophilic group reacts with nucleophilic sites on and in the hair to give the hair a plurality of hydrophobic groups characterised in that the hydrophobic group is selected from: C₁₀₋₁₆ alkyl and alkenyl groups.

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The hydrophobic group may be branched or linear. To give a good conditioning benefit the hydrophobic group may be C₁₁-C₁₆ alkyl, preferably C₁₁ or C₁₅, most preferably C₁₅.

5 The invention also comprises a reversible hair styling process comprising the steps of: contacting the hair with a compound having an electrophilic group and at least one hydrophobic group whereby the electrophilic group reacts with nucleophilic sites on and in the hair to give the hair a
10 plurality of hydrophobic groups characterised in that the hydrophobic group is selected from: C₁₋₃₀ alkyl or alkenyl, phenyl, diphenyl, and other aromatics (e.g. naphthyl), fluoroalkanes, and the electrophilic group is selected from the group comprising azlactone, sulphide from disulphide or
15 thiosulphonate, vinyl sulphone, vinyl sulfoximines, isocyanates and benzoxazinones.

Preferably the electrophilic group is azlactone. This class of materials combine the advantageous properties of fast
20 reaction time, good safety and system stability.

Advantageously the hair is contacted with a reducing agent before it is treated with the electrophilic group. This increases the number of reactive sites and promotes greater
25 stylability and conditioning due to the larger number of hydrophobic groups attached to the hair.

The preferred reducing agent is a thioglycollate, most preferably ammonium thioglycollate.

30 The invention further comprises a process in which styled hair is restyled by contacting the styled hair with a liquid containing hydrophilic and hydrophobic groups then setting the hair. The ability to restyle the hair a number of times
35 without the need to repeat the harsh thioglycollate treatment

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used in the perming process is very desirable, especially when the style is more resistant to moisture and humidity than a water wave.

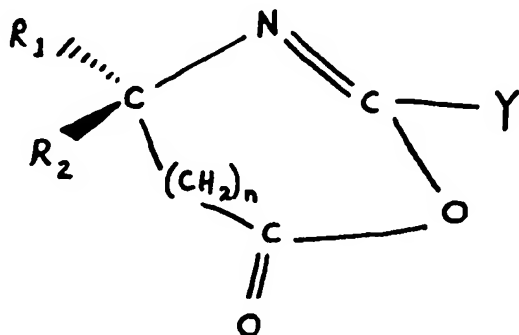
The liquid conveniently contains alcohol such as propanol.

Also falling within the present invention are the novel azlactones: Pentadecyl azlactone, hexyl azlactone, Phenylalanine azlactone etc.

Azlactone functionalised styling agent

The composition according to the invention may comprise at least one azlactone functionality chemically bonded to a hydrophobic group which can interact with similar hydrophobic groups on adjacent hairs for instance by forming hydrophobic bonds. By "azlactone" is meant the following group:

Formula 1



wherein R¹ and R² are the same or different and each is independently selected from H, and C₁₋₁₄ alkyl groups, preferably lower (C₁-C₄) alkyl e.g. methyl; a C₃₋₁₄ cycloalkyl group; a C₅₋₁₂ aryl ring group; a C₆₋₂₆ arenyl group with up to

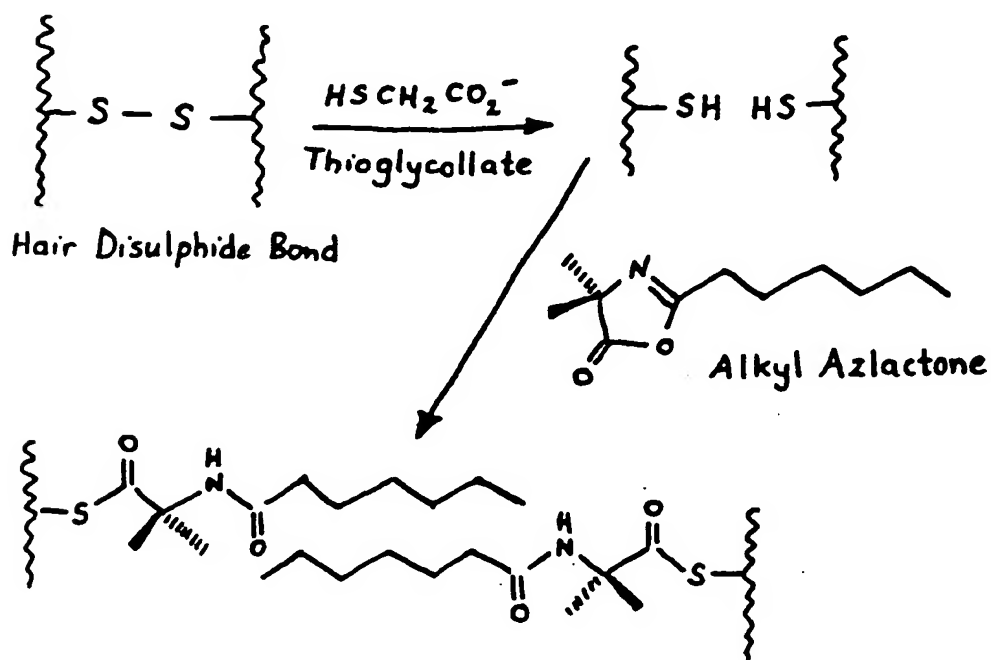
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3 S, N or O heteroatoms; or R¹ and R² taken together with the carbon atom to which they are joined can form a carbocyclic ring containing 4 to 12 ring atoms, and n is an integer from 0 to about 12, preferably up to about 3, most preferably 0.

5 Y is the hydrophobic group.

When the azlactone functionalised hydrophobic group is applied to the reduced hair in accordance with the invention, the azlactone group reacts with nucleophiles on the surface of the hair and within the hair, resulting in a ring-opening reaction represented by the following scheme for reduction with thioglycollate and acylation with an alkyl azlactone.



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The azlactone materials may be prepared by conventional synthetic routes as are well known in the art. One particularly preferred family of reactive species (a) are alkyl groups especially C₁, alkyl groups. Aromatic groups may also be used such as diphenyl groups or other cyclic groups which can rotate.

Compositions comprising the azlactone functionalised hydrophobic group

In this aspect of the present invention, a styling composition comprises at least one of the above described azlactone-functionalised hydrophobic groups, together with any additional ingredients which are normally to be found in treatment compositions for use on hair. One or more of the azlactone styling agents may be used.

Whilst aqueous or aqueous/alcoholic solution based compositions, or possibly organic solvent-based compositions, in which the one or more azlactone functionalised agents are dissolved are preferred, the compositions may comprise stable emulsions of the azlactone which are water-insoluble.

We have found that the pH of the compositions of the invention is relevant to achieving optimised chemisorption of the functionalised agent on the hair. Chemisorption occurs in a range of pH from 3-9.

The styling compositions according to the invention may be provided in any suitable physical form, for example as low to moderate viscosity liquids, lotions, milks, mousses, sprays, gels and creams.

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It is preferable for the styling process to include a retention step during which the composition containing the active is left in contact with the hair for a period of time sufficient for the azlactone rings to react with the nucleophilic site on the hair substrate surface.

The invention will now be further illustrated by way of the following non-limiting examples:

PREPARATION OF THE AZLACTONES

Hydrophobically modified azlactones are prepared via the synthesis of the appropriate N-Acyl Aminoacid. These amino acids may be prepared by following this general procedure.

In a suitable flange pot equipped with overhead stirrer, thermometer and dropping funnel, sodium hydroxide (1 mol) is dissolved in water (375 ml) Where the acid chloride is heptanoyl or palmitoyl chloride the water is replaced with acetone/water 3:1. The pot temperature is reduced to approx 10°C and the amino acid (0.5 mol) is added in portions - maintaining the temperature at 10/15°C. Upon completion of the addition the reaction mixture is stirred until complete dissolution has been achieved. The desired acid chloride (0.5 mol) is then added dropwise, at such a rate, that the temperature does not rise above 10°C. After the addition is complete the reaction mixture is stirred for a further 30 mins. The reaction mixture is cooled to 5°C and Conc. hydrochloric acid (0.5 Mol) is gradually added, resulting in the immediate precipitation of a white solid, this slurry is stirred for a further 30 mins. The white solid is then separated by filtration and typically washed with ice water and diethyl ether. In the case of N-hexadecanoyl-2-aminoisobutyric acid, unwanted palmitic acid by-product is separated by soxhlet extraction (diethyl ether, 7 hrs).

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Azlactonisation of N-acylamino acids-General procedure.

A suitable round bottom flask equipped with stirring bar and drying tube is charged with the desired N-acyl amino acid (1mol), dicyclohexylcarbodiimide [DCC] (1 mol) and THF (500ml). The reaction mixture is stirred at room temperature until FTIR shows no further reaction. The reaction mixture is filtered, the residues being washed with THF. The combined THF solutions are reduced to give crude azlactone which is either purified from n-hexane (2-aryl azlactones) or distilled under reduced pressure (2-alkyl azlactones).

i) N-Benzoyl Glycine

Yield 75%.

1-H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.80 (1H, bt, NH), 7.3 (2H, d, Ph-HO), 6.9 (3H, m, Ph-H), 3.49 (2H, d, CH₂).

ii) N-Benzoyl Phenylalanine

Yield 50%.

1-H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.72-7.15 (10H, m, Ph-H), 6.62 (1H, d, NH), 5.08 (1H, q, CH), 3.30 (2H, dq, CH₂).

iii) N-Benzoyl Alanine

Yield 61%

1-H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.58 (1H, bd, NH), 7.32 (2H, d, Ph-H), 7.00-6.80 (3H, m, Ph-H), 4.10 (1H, m, CH), 0.92 (3H, d, CH₃).

iv) N-Benzoyl Methylalanine

Yield 54%

1-H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 7.60-7.10 (5H, m, Ph-H), 1.42 (6H, s, 2xCH₃).

v) Glycine Azlactone

Yield 47%

I.R. (neat) ν /cm⁻¹ 1820 (C=O), 1645 (C=N).

1-H NMR (CDCl₃) δ 8.00 (2H, d, Ph-H), 7.55 (3H, m, Ph-H), 4.43 (2H, s, CH₂).

vi) Phenylalanine Azlactone

Yield 53%

I.R. (neat) ν /cm⁻¹ 1820 (C=O), 1645 (C=N).

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1-HNMR(CDCl₃) δ 7.97-7.10 (10H, m, Ph-H), 4.70 (1H, dd, CH), 3.40-3.10 (2H, m, CH₂)

vii) Alanine Azlactone

Yield 43%

I.R. (neat) ν /cm⁻¹ 1820 (C=O), 1650 (C=N).

1-HNMR(CDCl₃) δ 8.00 (2H, d, Ph-H), 7.60-7.35 (3H, m, Ph-H), 4.45 (1H, q, CH), 1.59 (3H, d, CH₃).

viii) Methylalanine Azlactone

Yield 97%

I.R. (neat) ν /cm⁻¹ 1825 (C=O), 1655 (C=N).

1HNMR(CDCl₃) δ 8.00 (2H, m, Ph-H), 7.60-7.40 (3H, m, Ph-H), 1.55 (6H, s, 2xCH₃).

ix) Pentadecyl Azlactone

yield 60%

The 1-H NMR and IR were consistent with the expected structure and GC showed it to be >99% pure.

Other classes of compound which deliver the desired benefits of hydrophobic modification leading to reversible styling and/or conditioning are:

Dialkyl disulphides

These contain the same disulphide linkage present in a keratin fibre. Thioglycollate reduction of hair followed by treatment with a 'fatty' dialkyldisulphide results in the reformation of disulphide linkages formed between keratin fibre and active.

The main benefit from this approach is that the bond attaching the hydrophobic alkyl group to the hair protein is via a hydrolytically stable disulphide bond.

By the use of the diester of cystine the leaving group is an ester of cysteine which has little odour. By using cystine

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as the reactive electrophilic group the resulting linkage between protein and alkyl group is also cystine. The chemistry of the alkylation protocol is therefore directly analogous with the natural chemistry found within the fibre.

Thiosulphonates

Thiosulphonates can be readily synthesised via the condensation of a sulphonyl bromide (typically para-toluene sulphonylbromide) with an alkyl/aryl sulphide. This class of compound is reported in the literature to readily undergo reaction with suitable anions at the thio-sulphur atom releasing a sulphinic leaving group. This group is a much better leaving group than RS and hence the thiosulphonates are more reactive with the fibre than the dialkyldisulphides.

Thiuramdisulphides

This class of compound is the fully sulphonated analogue of dialkanoylperoxides. The reactive chemistry of these materials is less well documented, it is reasonable to suggest that reactions with nucleophiles can take place via two different pathways. Both pathways give potentially attractive results since the by-products are believed to be significantly safer than ordinary sulphides.

Vinylsulphones

The chemistry of vinylsulphones with respect to attack by nucleophiles is analogous to that of α,β -unsaturated ketones in that they can undergo a 1,4- type Michael addition without releasing any undesirable by-products.

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Vinyl Sulphoximines

These work in a similar way to vinylsulphones. The N-tosyl sulphoximine group is significantly more electron withdrawing than the phenyl sulphone and therefore the vinyl groups will be more susceptible towards nucleophilic attack. N-substituents can be used to alter the electrophilic potential of the vinyl group.

Masked Isocyanates can also be used.

The invention will now be described by way of example only and with reference to the following non-limiting examples.

Hair Switch Preparation:

Ten hair fibres each of length greater than 18 cm were taken from a bundle of Yugo red tie hair. The fibres were bundled together length-wise side by side, wetted with water to make handling easier, and a knot tied at just greater than 10 mm from the root end of the fibres. The knot was then secured in tacky adhesive against a flat horizontal surface and another knot was tied in the hair at precisely 150 mm from the first knot using an opened up paper clip to guide the knot into place. The free ends of the knotted bundle were then trimmed to precisely 10 mm from the knots. Quick setting glue (one drop) was carefully applied to the knots and along the lengths of the free hair taking care for it not to spread onto the 15 cm length of hair between the two knots.

Example 1. Azlactone Treatment on the Curler

Five groups of four, 10 fibre, switches were prepared and wound onto a curler. Following the individual treatment,

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described below, the switches were removed from the curlers, suspended (rt, 50%RH) and their initial lengths (L_0) measured immediately. The curl lengths were remeasured after 24h (L_{24}). The switches were then soaked in distilled water for 5 min at rt, dried on tissue paper and rehung - the initial lengths (L_{water}) were noted immediately. The curl lengths were remeasured after 24h. The switches were set straight (ends temporarily stuck down) by soaking in 30% aqueous propanol for 15 min, dried with tissue paper and rehung. The lengths of the straightened switches were measured ($L_{straight}$). After 24h the switches were reset on a curler in the opposite direction to that of the initial set and soaked in 30% aqueous propanol for 1h. Following drying and suspension the values for L_0 and L_{24} were recorded as before. The switches were then reset a second time by winding them onto a curler in the original direction (i.e. as for the first set) and soaking in 30% aqueous propanol. L_0 and L_{24} were noted as before.

Treatments

1A-Blank - 4 switches were soaked in 30% aqueous propanol for one hour after which they were removed and dried (these switches were then equilibrated at rt at 50%RH for a further 30 min).

1B-Thioglycollate - 4 switches were treated with ammonium thioglycollate solution (15%, pH9.3) for 40 min at RT after which they were rinsed with distilled water and dried.

1C-Azlactone - 4 switches were soaked in a solution of benzyl phenyl azlactone (0.067 M, pH 3.6 in 70% aqueous propanol) for 2h at rt. The switches were rinsed with distilled water and dried.

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1D-Thioglycollate/Azlactone - 4 switches were treated with ammonium thioglycollate solution (15% pH 9.3) for 40 min after which they were rinsed with distilled water. The reduced switches were then transferred to a solution of phenyl alanine azlactone (0.067 M, pH 3.6 in 70% aqueous propanol) and soaked for 2h at rt. Following treatment with azlactone the switches were rinsed with distilled water and dried as above.

1E-Thioglycollate/Hydrogen Peroxide - 4 switches were treated with ammonium thioglycollate solution (15%, pH 9.3) for 40 min after which they were rinsed with distilled water and transferred to a solution of hydrogen peroxide (10%) and soaked for 30 min. The switches were rinsed with distilled water and dried.

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Table 1a

Treatment	Curl Length L (Percentage Curl Retention CR) *		
	Initial Set		
	L_0	L_{24} (CR ₂₄)	L_{water} (CR _{water})
30% aqueous propanol 1A	7.6±0.2	11.5±0.8 (48.6±9.2)	13.3±0.6 (23.4±8.2)
1)15% Ammonium thioglycollate 1D 2)0.67M Azlactone	6.3±0.2	6.5±0.3 (97.5±3.1)	7.7±0.4 (83.9±3.4)
Azlactone 1C	7.9±0.2	11.8±4.7 (44.7±3.1)	14.1±0.2 (12.2±2.7)
1)15% Ammonium thioglycollate 1E 2)H ₂ O ₂	6.4±0.1	6.5±98.6 (98.6±1.1)	9.1±0.5 (66.4±2.4)
15% Ammonium thioglycollate 1B	6.5±0.1	6.7±0.1 (97.3±0.6)	13.6±0.5 (16.9±5.6)

* Percentage Curl Retention CR = $\frac{L_{\infty} - L_t}{L_0 - L_0}$, where L_{∞} = Switch Length (15.0 cm)

$L_{\infty} - L_0$ L_0 = Initial Curl Length

L_t = Curl Length at time t

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Table 1b

Curl Length/L (Percentage Curl Retention CR)						
Treatment	1st Reset					
	L_{24} (CR ₂₄)	L_{etrolite}	L_{in}	L_{24} (CR ₂₄)	L_{water} (CR _{water})	
30% aqueous propanol 1A	13.4±0.5 (21.8±7.1)	13.7±0.9 (19.8±9.4)	7.9±0.4	10.5±0.7 (63.4±8.5)	13.9±0.5 (15.5±8.5)	
1)15% Ammonium thioglycollate 1D 2)0.67M Azlactone	7.7±0.4 (84.1±4.4)	13.3±0.5 (19.4±4.6)	6.2±0.1	6.2±0.2 (99.2±0.9)	8.1±0.3 (77.7±2.6)	
Azlactone 1C	14.2±0.3 (10.8±3.3)	14.3±0.3 (9.8±3.5)	7.9±0.2	10.5±0.4 (63.6±4.9)	13.8±0.8 (17.6±11.6)	
1)15% Ammonium thioglycollate 1E 2)H ₂ O ₂	8.3±0.6 (78.2±6.9)	12.9±0.3 (24.5±3.6)	6.2±0.2	6.3±0.2 (98.9±1.0)	9.3±0.7 (64.7±9.2)	
15% Ammonium thioglycollate 1B	13.6±0.5 (16.9±5.6)	14.6±0.1 (5.1±1.5)	6.5±0.1	6.7±0.2 (97.6±1.2)	12.6±0.3 (28.2±3.6)	

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Table 1c

Treatment	Curl Length/L (Percentage Curl Retention CR)			
	2nd Reset			
	L_0	L_{24}	L_{water}	
30% aqueous propanol 1A	8.0 ± 0.3	10.8 ± 0.3 (60.5 \pm 2.9)	14.0 ± 0.4 (14.3 \pm 5.7)	
1) 15% Ammonium thioglycollate 1D 2) 0.67M Azlactone	6.1 ± 0.2	6.3 ± 0.2 (98.7 \pm 1.3)	8.4 ± 0.5 (74.4 \pm 5.6)	
Azlactone 1C	-	-	-	
1) 15% Ammonium thioglycollate 1E 2) H_2O_2	6.4 ± 0.1	6.4 ± 0.1 (99.6 \pm 0.6)	10.1 ± 0.3 (57.3 \pm 3.6)	
15% Ammonium thioglycollate 1B	6.6 ± 0.3	6.7 ± 0.3 (98.2 \pm 1.3)	12.7 ± 0.2 (27.9 \pm 2.7)	

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results are shown in Table 1. It can clearly be seen that the treatments with thioglycollate, thioglycollate/azlactone and thioglycollate/hydrogen peroxide give a superior set in comparison with a water wave and azlactone by itself and that this set displays no significant loss of curl retention over 24h. On soaking the fibres in water, complete loss of set is observed with the thioglycollate treated switches. However, excellent set retention (both initial and after 24h) was observed for the fibres treated with thioglycollate/azlactone. The set retention for the permanently waved hair was comparable. All five groups of switches were able to be set straight by soaking in aqueous propanol.

On resetting the switches, the initial set and set retention after 24h for all 5 groups of switches was similar to the first step. On soaking in water the curl retention was again similar to that following the first soak for all the groups apart from the permed hair which lost considerable curl definition. This is perhaps not unexpected since the curl in the first set would primarily be held by newly formed disulphide bonds while the second set would be held as a result of internal hydrogen bonds and salt linkages. On soaking in water these polar interactions will be broken allowing the internal disulphide bonds to pull the hair back towards its original set. The result is that although the curl length retention is quantitatively reasonable, visually the curl is of extremely poor quality.

The observation for the second reset mirrors that of the first with the curl quality, definition and retention remaining high for the reduced/azlactone treated hair and the corresponding parameters deteriorating for the permed hair.

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This example was repeated at the lower azlactone concentration of and 0.03M, and the results obtained were comparable with the above examples.

5 CONCLUSION

Hair which is reduced with ammonium thioglycollate followed by treatment with aryl azlactones displays excellent initial set and set retention comparable with that shown by permanent
10 waved hair. The azlactone treated hair also displays excellent robustness of set when soaked in water which is superior to that of permanent waved hair. Unlike permanent waved hair, the azlactone treated hair can be restyled at
15 least twice by resetting the hair and soaking in aqueous propanol. The subsequent curl displays excellent curl retention both before and after soaking in water. The observed set retention and resistance to water induced disruption of the set is due to the introduction of
20 hydrophobic groups (phenyl/benzyl) to reactive nucleophilic sites on the hair fibre. Thioglycollate treated hair displays excellent initial set and set retention comparable with thioglycollate/azlactone and thioglycollate/hydrogen peroxide treated hair. But, this set is not resistant to
25 water.

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Example 2. Treatment off the Curler

Resetting Cycle

5 For each of the treatments described below the resetting cycle is as follows:

.0 i) Soak in water for 5 minutes, reset as described for Example 1 onto the curlers, dry at 50°C, cool at 21°C/50% RH, remove from the curlers and measure length of switches after 24 h.

.5 ii) Soak in water for 5 min, suspend against graph paper, equilibrate for 24 h and measure lengths.

iii) Set straight by soaking in water for 5 min, fix a fully extended conformation, dry at 50°C for 30 min, cool at 21°C/50% RH for 30 min and measure length.

!0 i) Repeat of steps i) and ii).

v) Repeat of step i) except that switches are soaked in 70% aqueous n-propanol instead of water.

!5 v) Repeat of step ii).

0 vi) Finally immerse the switches in 70% aqueous n-propanol for 10 min, equilibrate at 21°C/50% RH for 24 h and measure again.

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2A-Thioglycollate Alone

The switches as described above (four replicates) were each soaked loose in 15% ammonium thioglycollate solution (15 ml) at pH 9.3 for 40 min at ambient temperature. The switches were then rinsed under 30°C tap water for 2 min, and put through the setting and percentage CR evaluation protocol, as described below:

Setting and Percentage Curl Retention (CR) evaluation protocol

Each switch was then secured by its 1 cm root end length of hair with a 2mm diameter/2 mm length sleeve to the end of a curler moulded into a spiral shape with a diameter of 10 mm and a pitch of 7.5 mm and cut down to 182 mm in length prior to use. The free end of hair of the switches was then wound along the spiral of the curler by hand and the 1 cm tip-end length of glued fibres secured to the curler with a 3 mm diameter/2 mm length sleeve.

The roller-mounted switches were then left to dry in a circulatory oven at 50°C for 30 min and allowed to cool to 21°C at 50% RH for a further 30 min. The switches were then removed from the rollers, suspended against graph paper and their lengths immediately measured. The switches were left hanging for a further 24 h at 21°C, 50% RH and their lengths were again measured.

2B-Thioglycollate + Hydrogen Peroxide Oxidation Step

The previous experiment was repeated exactly using fresh switches except that after the hair was reduced with the thioglycollate solution and rinsed under 30°C tap water the switches were soaked loose in hydrogen peroxide (2.4%, pH 3

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with phosphoric acid) (15 ml). The switches were then put through the setting and percentage CR evaluation protocol.

2C-Thioglycollate + Alkyl Azlactone

The first experiment was repeated exactly using fresh switches except that this time, after the reduction and rinsing step, the hair was soaked in a solution comprising hexyl azlactone (33%), n-propanol (50%) and pH 9 buffer (17%), (treated at 10:1 solution to hair ratio) solution for 1 h at ambient temperature. The switches were then rinsed in 70% aqueous n-propanol for 2 min with agitation, and put through the setting and percentage CR evaluation protocol.

2D-Alkyl Azlactone Alone

Fresh switches were soaked in water at ambient temperature for 15 min and then soaked in solution comprising hexyl azlactone (33%), n-propanol (50%) and pH buffer (17%) for 1h at ambient temperature. The switches were then rinsed in 70% aqueous n-propanol for 2 min with agitation, and put through the setting and percentage CR evaluation protocol.

2E-Water Wave Control

Four replicate switches were soaked in water for 15 min at ambient temperature and set onto the rollers as before. They were dried and equilibrated as before and put through the setting and CR evaluation protocol.

Table 2a

Entry	Treatment	Initial CL ^a (cm)	% CR ^b after 24h	% CR after 5 min in water + 24h	CL after reset (cm)	% CR after 24h
Columns		1	2	3	4	5
2A	TG ^c alone	6.8 ± 0.1	95 ± 1	5 ± 1	6.6 ± 0.1	96 ± 1
2B	TG + H ₂ O ₂	7.1 ± 0.2	93	24 ± 9	6.6	95 ± 1
2C	TG + Alkyl Azlactone	6.4 ± 0.1	94 ± 1	55 ± 3	6.4 ± 0.1	97 ± 1
2D	Alkyl Azlactone alone	8.7 ± 0.3	36 ± 5	15 ± 5	7.9 ± 0.1	66 ± 3
2E	Water alone	8.5 ± 0.4	58 ± 3	13 ± 2	8.1 ± 0.1	66 ± 1

a = CL is curl length

b = CR is curl retention

c = PROH is aqueous propanol

d = TG is thioglycollate

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Table 2b

Entry	Treatment	% CR after 5 min in water + 24h	L_{straight}^*	L_0 (cm)	% CR after 24h	% CR after 5 min in water + 24 h/cm
Columns		6	7	8	9	10
2A	TG ^d alone	6 ± 1	14.8 ± 0.1	6.7 ± 0.1	93 ± 1	7 ± 3
2B	TG + H ₂ O ₂	21 ± 10	12.9 ± 0.8	6.6 ± 0.1	93 ± 1	24 ± 6
2C	TG + Alkyl Azlactone	67 ± 3	14.3 ± 0.3	6.6 ± 0.2	93 ± 1	34 ± 2
2D	Alkyl Azlactone alone	13 ± 5	14.0 ± 0.4	7.7 ± 0.1	64 ± 3	11 ± 4
2E	Water alone	10 ± 3	14.3 ± 0.1	7.8 ± 0.1	59 ± 1	11 ± 3

L_{straight} = length after set straight
and then soaked in water

Table 2c

Entry	Treatment	Length after 10 min in PrOH^c + 24 h/cm	% CR after 24 h	% CR after 5 min in water + 24 h/cm	% CR after 10 min in PrOH
Columns		11	12	13	14
2A	TG ^d alone	6.9 ± 0.1	89 ± 2	4 ± 1	No change
2B	TG + H_2O_2	6.9 ± 0.1	93 ± 1	27 ± 6	No change
2C	TG + Alkyl Azlactone	6.4 ± 0.1	98 ± 1	54 ± 2	24 ± 5
2D	Alkyl Azlactone alone	7.9 ± 0.1	70 ± 3	11 ± 4	No change
2E	Water alone	8.1 ± 0.1	67 ± 2	11 ± 3	No change

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RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

The results of the hair setting studies are shown in Table 2. From the first column in the table it can be seen that the thioglycollate/alkyl azlactone treatment gave a significantly superior initial set (smallest initial curl length) than any of the other treatments. After 24 hr at 50% RH curl retention of the thioglycollate alkyl/azlactone treated switch was significantly greater than the water wave.

It is clear that alkyl azlactone does not confer significant set retention to hair when used on its own without a pre-reduction step on the hair. However, it does react with surface nucleophilic groups to give a conditioning benefit.

In column 3 of the table, it can be seen that the set imparted by the treatment 2C is much more resilient to degradation by water than the set imparted by any of the other treatments. This indicates that the residual set after the thioglycollate/ alkyl azlactone treatment was 'hydrophobic', and the curl definition is well retained.

The hair was reset onto the curlers. It can be seen that the curl lengths immediately after removing the switches from the curlers (column 4) are comparable to, or in some cases, better than before.

After immersing the curls in water the curl retention value for the thioglycollate/hexyl azlactone treatment was vastly superior to any of the other treatments. This shows that the 'hydrophobic' setting effect still remained after the resetting process.

The results of setting the hair straight and determining the resiliency of the straight set to water are shown in column

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7. It can be seen that the thioglycollate treatment and the thioglycollate/hexyl azlactone treatment retain the straight configuration very well. The permed switches on the other hand, adopted the configuration they were originally in whilst being treated. These results indicate that the switches treated with thioglycollate and thioglycollate/hexyl azlactone have the ability to be reversibly set.

The resettability of hair with aqueous propanol was tested and the results are given in column 11. Styling with propanol enhances the set retention of the hair by disrupting the hydrophobic bonds and allowing them to be set in a greater 'set retaining' configuration on evaporation of the propanol from the fibre than that obtained with water alone.

Finally, the results shown in column 14 provided a further demonstration that hydrophobic bonds were indeed responsible for maintaining the set with the thioglycollate/hexyl azlactone treatment alone. Here, immersion of the hair samples in aqueous propanol resulted in an appreciable reduction in the set retention value compared with the previous value in column 13.

It is worth emphasising that the impressive stylability and set retention results obtained with the thioglycollate/alkyl azlactone treatment in these experiments were obtained without the need for the hair to be mounted on curlers/rollers whilst the treatment was in contact with the hair. Not only does this provide convincing evidence that the hydrophobic setting effect really is in operation after use of alkyl azlactone, but it also indicates that the treatment could be more convenient to use *in vivo* than conventional perming where rollers are needed during the application of both the reducing and oxidising lotions.

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We also studied the settability/resettability of alkyl azlactone-treated reduced hair compared to reduced hair treated with N-benzyl maleimide

5 Comparative Example A-Thioglycollate + N-Benzyl Maleimide under non-Wolfram Conditions

The first treatment was repeated using fresh switches except that after the reduction and rinsing step the hair was soaked
0 in a solution comprising N-Benzyl Maleimide (33%), n-propanol (50%) and pH9 buffer (17%), at a solution:hair ratio of 10:1 for 1 hr at ambient temperature.

This procedure was also conducted at pH 7.

5 Comparative Example B-Thioglycollate + N-Benzyl Maleimide under Conditions Similar to Wolfram's

To compare treatments according to the invention with
0 conditions found in the prior art the first treatment was repeated using fresh switches except that after the reduction and rinsing step the hair was soaked in a solution of N-Benzyl Maleimide (0.016M, in propanol (20%), pH 7 buffer (80%) mix), (15ml) for 2 hrs at 35°C. The switches were rinsed with 50%
5 aqueous propanol for 5 min and subjected to the setting cycle stages as with the previous treatments.

The results are shown in Table 3:

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Table 3

Example	Treatment	% CR (95% confidence)
Comparative Example A	Thioglycollate/ benzyl maleimide pH7	29.5 ± 4.1
	Thioglycollate/ benzyl maleimide pH9	29.7 ± 4.3
Comparative Example B	Thioclygollate/ benzyl maleimide (Wolfram's conditions)	46.5 ± 4.8

RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

When N-benzyl-maleimide was applied under the same conditions as pentadecyl azlactone at either pH 7.0 or 9.2 it was no better than thioglycollate alone.

Wolfram found that treatment of reduced hair with N-benzyl maleimide gave enhanced settability and high set retention through the hydrophobic bonding mechanism. However, we found no benefit from this material when applied under the same conditions as pentadecylazlactone. However, we did find a benefit when N-benzyl maleimide was applied under conditions similar to Wolfram's. These results suggest that the azlactone functionality is superior to the maleimide functionality for imparting hydrophobic setting to hair.

When pentadecyl azlactone was applied to hair at pH 7 instead of pH 9 it gave a comparable effect to application at pH 9 , indicating that the high pH of 9 is not necessary for effective acylation of hair thiol groups by azlactones.

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It should be pointed out that maleimides are known skin sensitisers which has precluded their development into commercial hair products.

5 CONCLUSIONS

It has been demonstrated that hair treated with thioglycollate/alkyl azlactone, without mechanical deformation (curler/roller) whilst the treatment was in contact with the hair, displayed the following properties in vitro:

Stylability and set retention which were superior in resilience to water degradation than the stylability and set retention properties obtained with thioglycollate alone or thioglycollate with subsequent oxidation. The ability to be reset with water and heat to the same degree of efficiency as obtained in the initial setting process and reversible styling, whereby the hair could be returned from its curly set to a water-resilient straight configuration with water and heat then restyled back into the curly set with the same set retention ability as the original one with aqueous propanol.

These results indicate that, under the conditions used, sufficient hexyl azlactone can acylate free thiol groups generated in hair by thioglycollate to give a set which is 'hydrophobic' in nature.

It has been shown that the azlactone functionality, as present in alkyl azlactone and aryl azlactone, is useful for acylating thiol groups of thioglycollate-reduced hair fibres to confer 'hydrophobic' settability/resettability to the hair.

Example 3- Test of Pentadecyl Azlactone to give 'Permanent' Conditioning to Hair

5

Six 25.4 cm/7g hair switches were prepared from Yugo hair. The switches were degreased by soaking in 5% SLES 2EO overnight, rinsed thoroughly and dried. They were then soaked in

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distilled water for 10 min before applying 1 ml of the following mixture to each of three of the switches: pentadecyl azlactone (33%)/n-propanol (50%) pH 9 buffer (17%). The other three switches were treated with 1 ml/switch of the control mixture: n-propanol (75%)/pH 9 buffer (25%). The mixtures were spread evenly along the switches, the switches put in a sealed container and left for 1 hr at ambient temperature. The switches were then immersed in stirred 70% aqueous n-propanol (1.5l) for 1hr, dried at 50°C for 30 min, combed, and panel tested for smoothness and ease of combability according to standard tests. The switches were then soaked in stirred n-propanol (1.5l) for a further 1 hr, rinsed with tap water, washed with SLES 2EO, dried and again panel tested for smoothness and ease of combability.

The results are given on Table 4:

Table 4

Voting Split for Switches				
After 1st Propanol Rinse			After 2nd Propanol rinse + Shampoo	
Attribute	Test	Control	Test	Control
Smoothness	45	27	50	22
Ease of Comb	53	17	47	25

The conditioning benefits given by the pentadecyl azlactone can be clearly seen.

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Example 4- Thioglycollate + alkyl azlactone treatment of African hair

Thioglycollate + pentadecyl azlactone treatment of tightly
5 curled hair such as Negro hair gives it the ability to be set
into any desired configuration (e.g. straight or wavy) with the
set having a high degree of water stability. Not only does
this provide a potentially less damaging method for
straightening Negro hair than the use of caustic treatments, it
0 also is a potentially useful method for cutting out a step in
Negro hair (chemical treatment) styling, viz: caustic treatment
is used principally to straighten negro hair and if a degree of
waviness is required in the straightened hair it is then rolled
onto curling rods and treated further with thioglycollate +
5 oxidising agent. The thioglycollate + pentadecyl azlactone
treatment on the other hand, enables the straightened hair to
be set wavy without the need for further chemical treatment.

Examples 5 to 8 - Comparison of Alkyl and Aryl Azlactones

1 Hair switches were reduced with ammonium thioglycollate, rinsed
with water and treated with azlactone at pH 9.2. The fibres
were then set using 70% aqueous propanol. Results are given in
Table 5.
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TABLE 5

	TEST COMPOUND	CURL RETENTION (FIRST SET)
5.	2-Benzyl-4,4'-Dimethyl Azlactone	13.9 \pm 3.8
6.	2-Phenyl-4,4'-Dimethyl Azlactone	20.1 \pm 2.6
7.	2 Benzyl-4-Phenyl Azlactone	27.3 \pm 1.4
8.	2-Pentadecyl-4,4' Dimethyl Azlactone	76.1 \pm 1.5

10 It can be seen that the set retention from the alkyl azlactone is far superior to that obtained from any of the aryl azlactones.

15 Examples 9 to 13 - Effect of Alkyl Chain Length (for Azlactones) on Curl Drop Out

Hair switches were treated as described for Examples 5 to 8. Results are given in Table 6:

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Table 6

Example	Alkyl Chain Length of the Azlactone	% CR (95% confidence)
9	6	83.0 ± 5.0
10	9	80.3 ± 9.8
11	11	77.5 ± 1.5
12	15	78.2 ± 5.5
13	17	82.3 ± 5.4

It can be seen that altering the alkyl chain length of the azlactone from C₆ through to C₁₇, has no effect on styling efficacy.

Examples 14 and 15 - Comparison of alkyl and aryl
thiosulphonates

Hair switches were reduced with ammonium thioglycollate, rinsed with water and treated with thiosulphonate at pH 9.3.

The fibres were then set using 70% aqueous propanol. Results are given in Table 7.

Table 7

Example	Test Compound	% CR (95% confidence)
14	Dodecyl thiosulphonate	64.6 ± 7.8
15	Phenyl thiosulphonate	35.6 ± 4.7

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It can be seen that the set retention from the alkyl thiosulphonate is superior to that obtained from the aryl thiosulphonate.

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CLAIMS

1. A hair styling and conditioning process comprising the steps of: contacting the hair with a compound having an electrophilic group and at least one hydrophobic group whereby the electrophilic group reacts with nucleophilic sites on and in the hair to give the hair a plurality of hydrophobic groups characterised in that the hydrophobic group is selected from: C₁₀₋₃₀ alkyl and C₁₀₋₃₀ alkenyl groups.

2. A process according to claim 1 in which the hydrophobic group is C₁₁-C₁₄ alkyl, preferably C₁₁ or C₁₃ alkyl, most preferably C₁₁ alkyl.

3. A reversible hair styling process comprising the steps of: contacting the hair with a compound having an electrophilic group and at least one hydrophobic group whereby the electrophilic group reacts with nucleophilic sites on and in the hair to give the hair a plurality of hydrophobic groups, characterised in that the hydrophobic group is selected from: C₁₋₃₀ alkyl, alkenyl, phenyl, diphenyl, and other aromatics, (e.g. naphthyl), and fluoroalkanes, and the electrophilic group is selected from: azlactone, sulphide from disulphide or thiosulphonate, vinyl sulphone, vinyl sulfoximines, isocyanates and benzoxazinones.

4. A process according to any preceding claim in which the electrophilic group is azlactone.

5. A process according to any preceding claim in which the hair is contacted with a reducing agent before it is treated with the the electrophilic group.

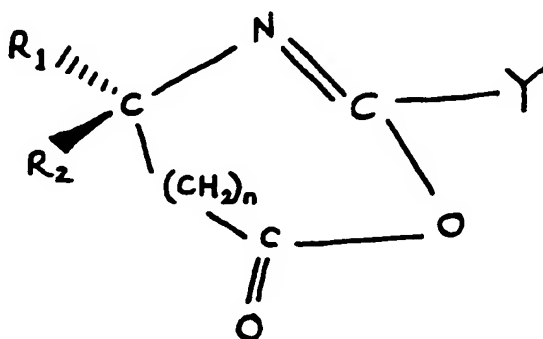
6. A process of Claim 5 in which the reducing agent is a thioglycollate.

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7. A process according to any preceding claim in which styled hair is restyled by contacting the styled hair with a liquid containing hydrophilic and hydrophobic groups, then setting the hair.

8. A process according to claim 7 in which the liquid contains alcohol.

9. An azlactone of formula:



in which R^1 and R^2 are the same or different and each is independently selected from H and C_{1-4} alkyl groups, Y is an alkyl group having a chain length of from 2 to 20 carbon atoms, and in which n is an integer from 0 to about 12, preferably up to about 3, most preferably 0.

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INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

National Application No
PCT/EP 95/02936

A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER
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C07D267/22 C07D267/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

B. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)
IPC 6 A61K C07D

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

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Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk
Tel. (+ 31-70) 340-3040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,
Fax (+ 31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Fischer, J.P.

INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

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